Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   An interactive response system comprising:

means for acquiring an utterance from a user;

means for ~~recognised~~ recognizing a plurality of words from the utterance and associating a recognition score with each of the recognized words;

~~means for comparing the actual duration of the utterance with an ideal duration of the recognised words;~~

means for acquiring for each of the recognized words an actual duration of delivery and an ideal duration of delivery;

means for calculating for each of the recognized words a ratio of the actual duration and the ideal duration;

means for computing an average ratio for the utterance as an indication of a speed of delivery of the utterance, wherein the average ratio is equal to the average of the calculated ratios for each of the recognized words associated with a recognition score above a lower threshold recognition score; and

means for prompting the user as to the speed of delivery of the utterance according to the results of the computing of the average ratio ~~comparison~~.

2-5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system ~~as in~~ of claim 1, wherein the means for prompting further comprises:

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<u>means for prompting the user that the utterance has been delivered too slow</u> if the actual duration is greater than the ideal duration; ~~then prompting the user that the utterance has been delivered too slow~~ and

<u>means for prompting the user that the utterance has been delivered too fast</u> if the actual duration is less than the ideal duration ~~then prompting the user that the utterance has been delivered too fast~~.

7. (Original) A system as in claim 1 wherein the means for prompting the user only operates if the actual duration and the ideal duration differ by more than a de minimus value.

8. (Currently Amended) A method in an interactive response system comprising:

acquiring an utterance from a user;

~~recognising~~ <u>recognizing</u> a plurality of words from the utterance <u>and associating a recognition score with each of the recognized words</u>;

~~comparing the actual duration of the utterance with an ideal duration of the recognised words;~~

<u>acquiring for each of the recognized words an actual duration of delivery and an ideal duration of delivery;</u>

<u>calculating for each of the recognized words a ratio of the actual duration and the ideal duration;</u>

<u>computing an average ration for the utterance as an indication of a speed of delivery of the utterance, wherein the average ratio is equal to the average of the calculated ratios for each of the recognized words associated with a recognition score above a lower threshold recognition score;</u> and

prompting the user as to the speed of delivery of the utterance according to the

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results of the <u>computing step</u> ~~comparison~~.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for processing one or more sets of data processing tasks, said computer program product comprising computer program instructions stored on a computer-readable storage medium for, when loaded into a computer and executed, causing a computer to carry out the steps of:

acquiring an utterance from a user;

~~recognising~~ <u>recognizing</u> a plurality of words from the utterance <u>and associating a recognition score with each of the recognized words</u>;

~~comparing the actual duration of the utterance with an ideal duration of the recognised words;~~

<u>acquiring for each of the recognized words an actual duration of delivery and an ideal duration of delivery;</u>

<u>calculating for each of the recognized words a ratio of the actual duration and the ideal duration;</u>

<u>computing an average ratio for the utterance as an indication of a speed of delivery of the utterance, wherein the average ratio is equal to the average of the calculated ratios for each of the recognized words associated with a recognition score above a lower threshold recognition score;</u> and

prompting the user as to the speed of delivery of the utterance according to the results of the <u>computing step</u> ~~comparison~~.

10.   (New) The method of claim 8, the step of prompting further comprising:

prompting the user that the utterance has been delivered too slow if the actual duration is greater than the ideal duration; and

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prompting the user that the utterance has been delivered too fast if the actual duration is less than the ideal duration.

11. (New) The method of claim 8, the step of prompting further comprising:

prompting the user only if the actual duration and the ideal duration differ by more than a de minimus value.

12. (New) The computer program product of claim 9, the step of prompting further comprising computer instructions:

prompting the user that the utterance has been delivered too slow if the actual duration is greater than the ideal duration; and

prompting the user that the utterance has been delivered too fast if the actual duration is less than the ideal duration.

13. (New) The computer program product of claim 9, the step of prompting further comprising computer instructions for:

prompting the user only if the actual duration and the ideal duration differ by more than a de minimus value.